

This District of Columbia tradition takes place during the first full week of summer each year and brings together tens of thousands D.C. area families and visitors to the nation's capital in the spirit of unity, community and celebration.

After two years of virtual events, the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle returned to Pennsylvania Avenue on June 25, 2022, featuring the Giant National BBQ Championship, the National Pork BBQ Championship, the Smokin' with Smithfield Rib Contest, the Perdue Sizzlin' Chicken Contest, the Turkey Smoke BBQ Cooking Contest, the Nation's Best BBQ Sauce Contest and, for the first time, the Beyond Meat Plant-Based Barbecue Championship.

The Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle has raised millions of dollars for D.C. charities and USO-Metro over the past 30 years and donated food to food banks.

This event draws some of D.C.'s and the nation's best barbecue talent, and the participants represent D.C. wherever state barbecue cooking championship winners are welcomed.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the aims and goals of the Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MONSIGNOR JOHN CISEWSKI PASTOR

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsignor John Cisewski, from the Archdiocese of New Orleans after 51 years of leading God's people as a priest of Jesus Christ.

Monsignor Cisewski was born in the Upper Peninsula of Iron Wood, Michigan to late Walter and Sophia Jean Cisewski. He will be joining the ranks of retirement along-side all his living siblings, Wally, Jim "Choo", Kay and Judy, all who have been retired in various fields for many years.

Monsignor Cisewski pronounced first vows and was ordained to the priesthood on October 16, 1971, at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church located in the Ninth Ward, Desire area in New Orleans. He studied at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans after completing graduate work with degrees in Master of Arts Theology and Master of Divinity. He then became the Associate Pastor of St. Philip the Apostle, followed by St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church in Pontchartrain Park.

Forty-two years ago, Monsignor Cisewski rose to the ranks of pastor on March 17, 1980, at St. Monica Catholic Church. He later continued his ministry as pastor serving many parishes including St. Matthias Catholic Church; Our Lady of Lourdes (serving as dual pastor of two churches); St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, subsequently serving a pastor of the merged St. Raymond St. Leo the Great Catholic Church because of Hurricane Katrina; and his final assignment at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church in 2008, also created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, merging Holy Ghost Catholic Church and St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church.

Recognizing the great impact Monsignor Cisewski has on the many parishioners throughout Orleans Parish, he was selected to serve on Priests Council for three terms, the Priests Personnel Committee for seven years, over twenty years appointed by then tenured Archbishops as Dean in the Inner-City Deanery, City Park/Gentilly Deanery and twice for the University Deanery.

During the 1970's, Monsignor Cisewski taught Theology at St. Augustine High School and as Chaplain at Xavier University Preparatory High School, serving the youth in our community.

Monsignor Cisewski went beyond his spiritual calling to leave his footprint on this city on community growth. He completed a graduate degree with a master's degree in urban studies at the University of New Orleans. He worked closely with the parishioners of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church to establish the Desire Social Center in the Desire Housing Development area. He later worked closely with the parishioners and residents in Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Woods creating the Pontilly Neighborhood Association, one of the most active neighborhood groups still in existence to this day.

And if you thought his plate was full, his service furthered having served as an active member over fifty years of the Knights of Peter Claver; the Faith Friar to E.O. Moss Grand Assembly No. 4 and also to M.L. Lunnon Grand Chapter No. 4. His tenure includes serving on the National Committee facilitating the establishment of the Fourth Degree for the Gracious Ladies of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. (Auxiliary).

A huge Congratulations and Best Wishes to Louisiana's adopted Son as he begins a much-deserved retirement effective the first day of July, in the year two thousand twenty-two.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AUSTIN RHODES

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Austin Rhodes for thirty years in broadcasting at WGAC-AM 580 in Augusta.

I have been fortunate to have been a guest on Austin's radio program during my time in Congress and it is a pleasure to recognize him and his hard work in this chamber.

For three decades, Austin's program has brought news and commentary to countless listeners across Georgia and his hard work and dedication have enabled him to cement a lasting legacy in talk radio.

Congratulations to Austin and his entire team over at WGAC on thirty years of the Austin Rhodes Show.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 281. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call 281.

IN RECOGNITION OF CURTIS PAUL RAMSEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Curtis Paul Ramsey. A lifelong educator, Ramsey, spent every chance he had sharing his wisdom with others.

On November 24, 1926, Curtis was born in Denton, Texas. In his early years, he became a member of Boy Scout Troop 65. He then earned the ranking Eagle Scout and later attended the Troops 100th celebration in 2018. Curtis also was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He spent his time teaching adult Sunday school and serving as a youth counselor.

Ramsey graduated from Denton Senior High School. He attended North Texas State College, now known as the University of North Texas (UNT), where he was elected the 1950 Senior Class President. He earned a bachelor's degree in Biology and Psychology, and completed a master's degree in Curriculum and Guidance at the same campus. His pursuit of education didn't stop as he then earned his Ph.D. in Education at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. During his time at Peabody, Curtis conducted research with the hopes of improving educational outcomes.

Curtis served in World War II as a company clerk in Japan, later returning with a great appreciation for the Japanese people, their art and their culture.

His passion for education followed once he returned to the states. After the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, a Peabody Grant allowed Curtis to aid de-segregated school districts. Dr. Ramsey served as Chairman of the Elementary Education Department at Kent State University and in the Bridgeport and Stamford schools while advocating for Cleveland area schools. He then served as the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. His passion took him overseas as he taught at the Bir Zeit University as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in Education and Psychology.

Upon his return to Denton, he taught at Texas Women's University while serving on Denton's ISD School Board. His passion for education was demonstrated on the state and national level as he served on the Leadership TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) and with the Texas Legislative Taskforce lobbying in D.C.

Curtis treated the students of Denton ISD as his own. He was a beloved father to Rebecca Ramsey Lindrose, Cynthia Ramsey Despot, Dawn Ramsey, and Victoria Ramsey, and a devoted husband to Virginia Mary Ramsey. He was a proud grandfather of four grandchildren and a great-grandfather to six great-grandchildren.

Curtis Ramsey's positive impact spread beyond the city of Denton and Denton ISD. Everywhere he went, he shared himself personally and professionally. He was a father, a husband, a grandfather, a friend, a son, a Denton native, and most of all, a respected and dedicated educator.